

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 14738 131307Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MCT-02 EB-08 PM-05 COME-00
SS-15 ACDA-12 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02
NSC-05 /082 W

-----109570 141947Z /75

R 131245Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9940
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14738

E.O. LL652: GDS
TAGS: MASS LY UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH TANK TRANSPORTERS FOR LIBYA

REF: STATE 230316

1. ACCORDING TO TOMKYS AT FCO, HMG HAS CONFIRMED TO (UNNAMED) FIRM OR FIRMS A DECISION TAKEN BY HMG TWO YEARS AQO TO PERMIT SALE OF TANK TRANSPORTERS. NUMBER INVOLVED IS OF THE ORDER OF 200, "CERTAINLY NO MORE." TOMKYS EMPHASIZED NO NEW DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN; RATHER AN OLD DECISION HAS BEEN "CONFIRMED." THE FIRMS HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT "THEY SHOULD NOT SUPPOSE" A NEW REQUEST WOULD NECESSARILY BE VIEWED WITH FAVOR.

2. AS INSTRUCTED, EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT WE HAD UNDERSTOOD HMG WOULD PERMIT SALE OF ONLY "MODEST" NUMBER OF VEHICLES. TOMKYS DID NOT RECALL USING THIS ADJECTIVE IN TALK WITH BISHOP. HE MOST CERTAINLY DID NOT INTEND TO MISLEAD US, AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 14738 131307Z

VAGUELY REMEMBERS MENTIONING "LIMITED" NUMBER (HE HAS NO NOTES FROM MEETING). HE DOES NOT RECALL IF HE ACTUALLY KNEW THE NUMBERS INVOLVED WHEN HE TALKED TO BISHOP. ALTERNATIVELY, HE MAY HAVE MEANT TO CONVEY THAT CURRENT SALE (ON ORDER OF 200) IS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN ORIGINAL REQUEST TWO YEARS AGO. IN ANY CASE, HE REGRETS ANY

MISUNDERSTANDING.

3. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT SHE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO TELL FCO THAT USG, IF QUERIED BY CONGRESS OR PRESS, WOULD REGRET PUBLICLY HMG'S ACTION. TOMKYS REPLIED HE UNDERSTOOD BUT HOPED OUR RESPONSES TO QUERIES WOULD BE LOW KEY. EMBOFF REVIEWED DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNS AT TIME OF OSHKOSH SALE, BUT TOMKYS WAS UNPERSUADED. IF UK DOES NOT MAKE SALE, OTHERS ("ITALIANS") WILL, HE OBSERVED.

4. COMMENT: "DECISION" OR "CONFIRMATION" HAS CLEARLY BEEN MADE. TOMKYS, WHO IS JUST BACK FROM VACATION, WAS NOT SURE IF ACTUAL DELIVERIES HAD BEGUN; HE THOUGHT THEY HAD NOT. END COMMENT

BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON14738
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780374-0935
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780972/aaaachrp.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b90c5851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 230316
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1455249
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH TANK TRANSPORTERS FOR LIBYA
TAGS: MASS, LY, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b90c5851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014